

Version of amendments showing changes made:

In the specification, page 1, lines 4-8 were:

~~William Flanagan~~

~~Jeffrey Conklin~~

~~David Foucher~~

and

~~Daniel Foucher~~

and have been changed to:

Jeffrey Conklin,

William Flanagan,

David Foucher,

and

Daniel Foucher

On page 1, the continuing data paragraph has been changed as follows:

This is a continuation in part of co-pending applications: Application Serial No.

09/192,735, entitled "System for Iterative, Multivariate Negotiations Over a

Network" filed 11/16/98, now US Patent No. 6,141,653; Application Serial No.

09/192,729, entitled "System and Method for Providing and Updating User Supplied

Context for a Negotiations System" filed 11/16/98, now US Patent No. 6,338,050; Application Serial No. 09/192,979, entitled "System and Method for Representing Data and Providing Electronic Non-Repudiation in a Negotiations System" filed 11/16/98, now US Patent No. 6,336,105; and Application Serial No. 09/192,848, entitled "System and Method for Ordering Sample Quantities Over a Network" filed 11/16/98, now US Patent No. 6,332,135.

On page 46, the paragraph at line 15 has been changed as follows:

Figures 15c-1 through ~~15e-3~~ 15c-2 are block diagrams showing a proposed letter of credit using the present invention.

The Abstract paragraph has been changed as follows:

An automated system of record ~~is disclosed which is established by a sponsor to create and administer~~ creates and administers a sponsored community for participants ~~such as customers and suppliers~~. ~~The invention allows participants to Participants~~ use an automated negotiations engine for iterative, multivariate negotiations ~~engine which that~~ stores each set of terms proposed at each iteration to form ~~the basis of the~~ a system of record. ~~The present invention also allows the~~ The automated negotiations engine ~~to can also~~ be used to propose and negotiate specifications, prototypes and implementations of other systems. ~~The~~ An active

contract feature of the present invention informs the results of such negotiations, ~~including doing so by incorporating predefined templates, so that to track~~ activity related to the concluded negotiation ~~can be tracked in other systems. This, in turn, enables the~~ ~~The~~ system to implements a higher level of security by validating activities against the originally negotiated terms. ~~The~~ A contract authority of the ~~invention~~ assigns a unique identifier to each ~~negotiated~~ transaction and enables the participants to use that number to track all activities against the transaction for analysis and reporting purposes. A multiple repository ~~feature~~ enables users to maintain the non-repudiation data for transactions in which they participate at ~~one or more locations they designate~~ ~~user designated locations.~~ With the automated ~~system of record created by the invention, the participants~~ Participants can also use the process mining ~~features of the invention~~ to measure the effectiveness of ~~internal and external~~ processes.

Remarks:

Claims 2-25 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Applicants' related issued and co-pending applications.

Claims 26-98 have been added.

The Specification was objected to because the abstract exceeded 150 words and used phrases which can be implied, such as the word "disclosed."

The Specification was objected to because a reference was made to Fig. 15C-3 which does not exist.

The Specification was objected to because the continuing data on Page 1 did not include the present status of each parent case.

Applicants' attorney has filed a disclaimer herewith to overcome the judicially created obviousness double patenting rejection and believes this places Claims 2-98 in condition for allowance. The Specification has been amended to reorder the names of the inventors and to update the continuing data to include the present status of each parent case. The Specification has also been amended to replace the

Abstract with a shorter Abstract having fewer than 150 words and eliminating words that can be implied. Applicants' respectfully submit that the erroneous reference to Figure 15c-3 occurs on Page 46, not Page 38 and have amended it accordingly.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above bases for objection and rejection have been overcome and that Claims 2-98 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of all the claims is requested. Allowance of Claims 2-98 at an early date is solicited.

Applicants' Attorney respectfully requests that if she can be of any further assistance in putting all the claims in condition for allowance that she be reached by telephone at 508-653-8143 in order to discuss the application with the Examiner, so that any new objections or rejections may be addressed.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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